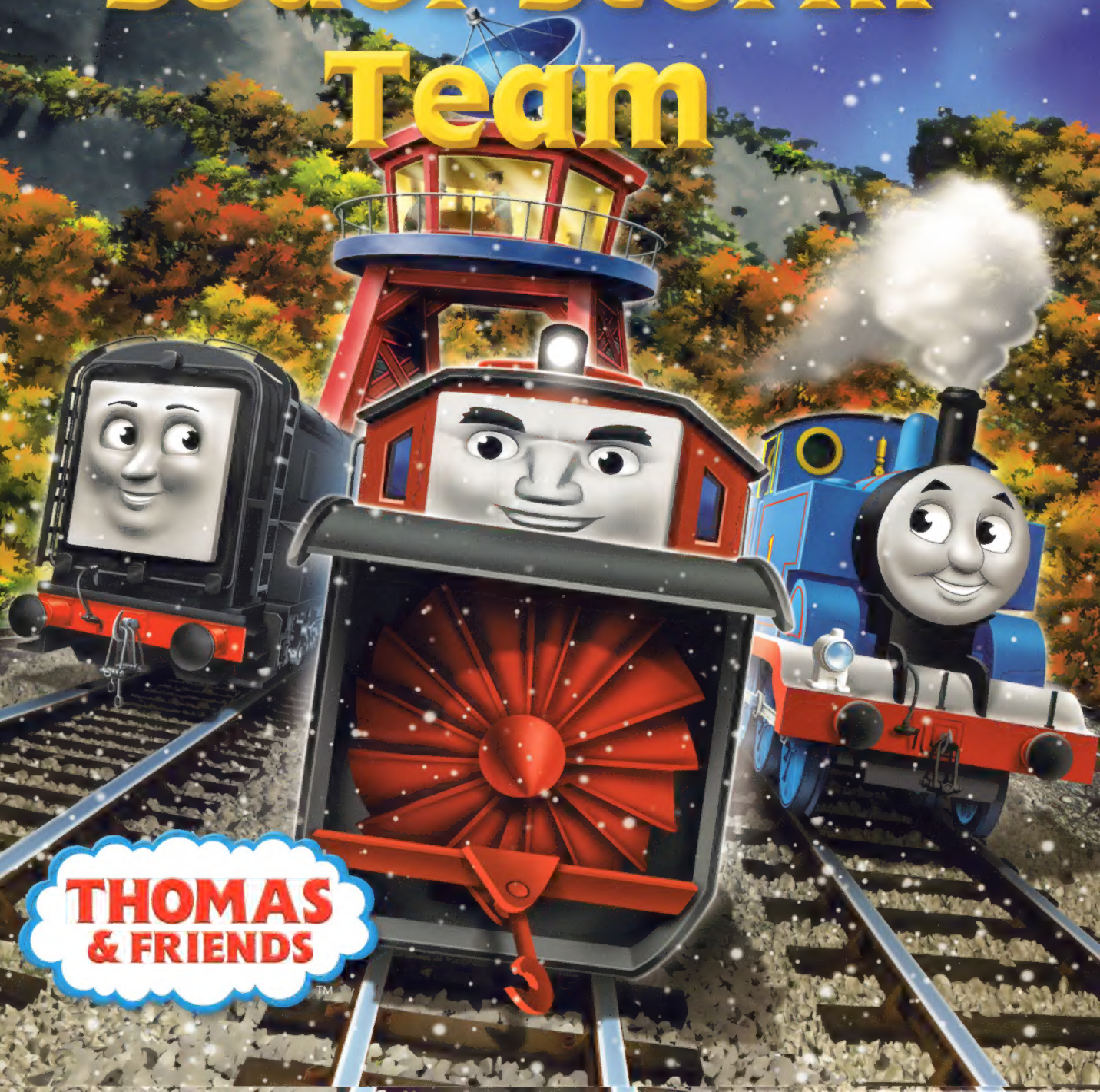


# Dustin and the Sodor Storm Team



**THOMAS  
& FRIENDS**





## Dustin and the Sodor Storm Team

Dustin is back,  
and this time the snow-  
removal steam engine is  
training a team to help  
battle a blizzard!

With winter approaching, Sir Topham Hatt puts Dustin in charge of building a special weather station. As Dustin gets to work, he realizes Sodor needs more than a weather station; the Island needs a group of engines trained to handle winter conditions. But when a blizzard strikes and the engines are put to the test, will Thomas and the rest of Dustin's storm team be ready for action?







Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends™

CREATED BY BRITT ALLCROFT

Based on *The Railway Series* by the Reverend W Awdry.

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# Dustin and the Sodor Storm Team





With winter approaching, Sir Topham Hatt knew the Island of Sodor needed to prepare for bad weather. As Dustin had saved the Fall Festival and Charity Race after a powerful storm, Sir Topham Hatt went to see him.

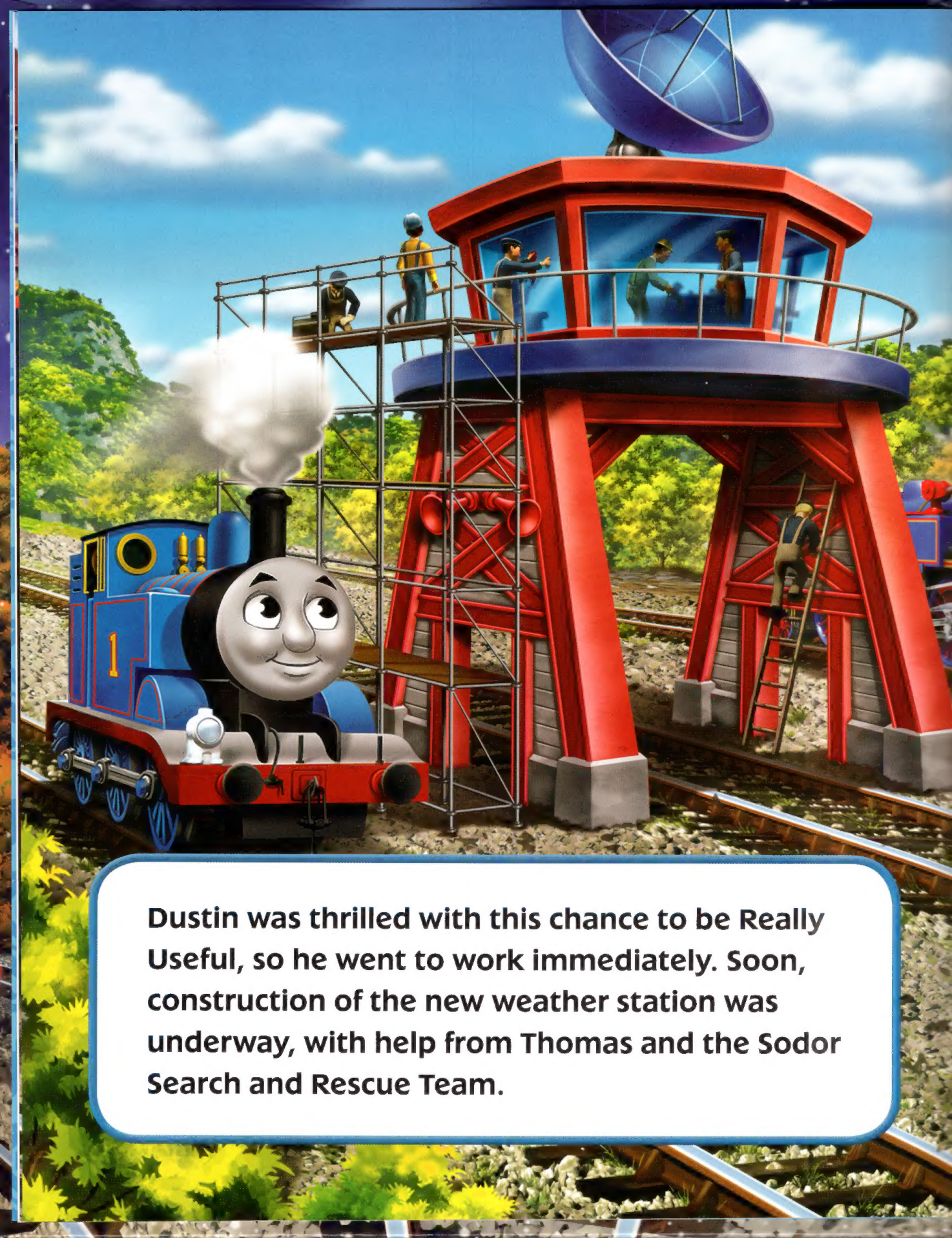




**"I want to build a weather station for the Sodor Search and Rescue Team," Sir Topham Hatt said. "The station will have a satellite dish to warn us when storms are coming. Dustin, I want you to be in charge of setting up this station."**

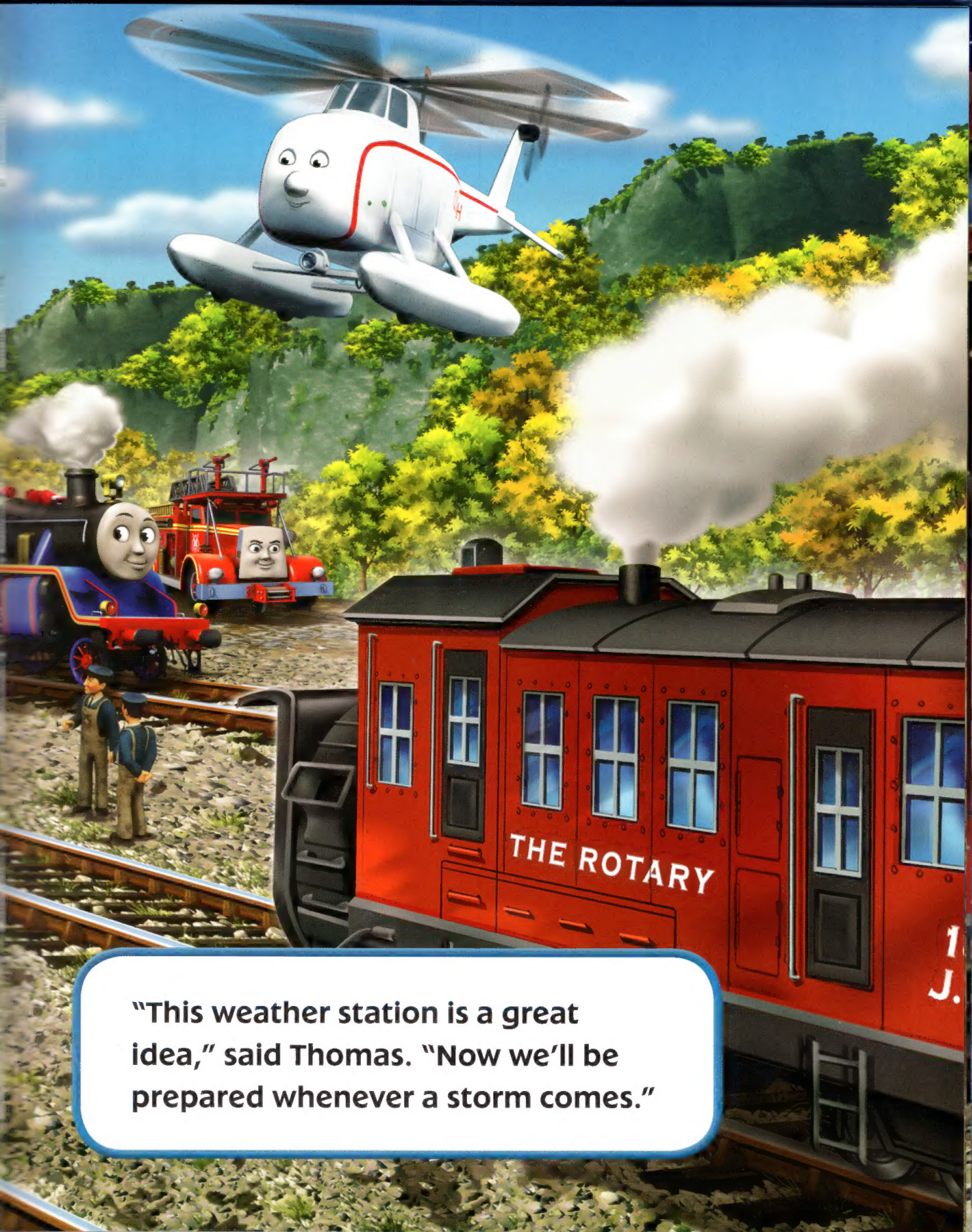




A vibrant illustration of Thomas the Tank Engine, a blue steam locomotive with a smiling face and the number 1 on its side, emitting a plume of white steam. He is positioned on a railway track in the foreground. Behind him is a large, red and blue weather station under construction. The station has a multi-level structure with a large satellite dish on top. Several workers in blue uniforms and hard hats are visible: one on a ladder near the base, others on a platform, and some inside the station's observation windows. The background features a lush green hillside under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds.

**Dustin was thrilled with this chance to be Really Useful, so he went to work immediately. Soon, construction of the new weather station was underway, with help from Thomas and the Sodor Search and Rescue Team.**





"This weather station is a great idea," said Thomas. "Now we'll be prepared whenever a storm comes."



**"It's good to know when a storm is on the way, Thomas," Dustin said. "But everyone should also know what to do when it strikes. The satellite dish can't teach engines how to plow snow or ride along icy rails, but I can!"**








Thomas saw a chance to help his friend, so he told Dustin he would find more engines to be a part of the special weather response team.



Thomas raced to the Docks, where he found James and Diesel. At first, James did not want to be a part of the training. However, when Thomas explained it was important to Sir Topham Hatt, James agreed to help. "Very important work should be done by a Really Splendid Engine," he said.



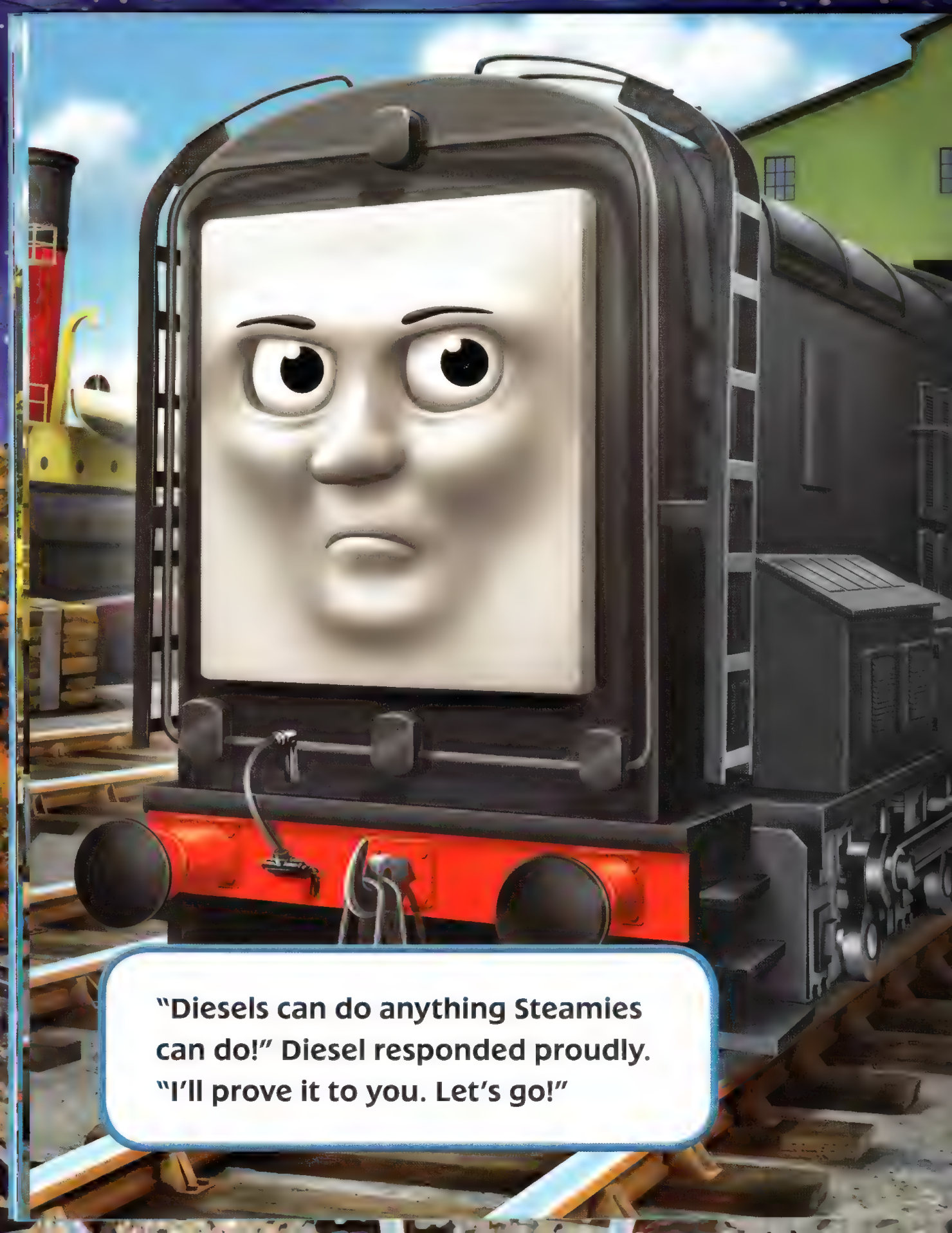


A scene from the Thomas the Tank Engine series. On the left, Thomas the Tank Engine, a black steam locomotive with a red body, looks concerned. In the foreground on the right, Diesel the Diesel Engine, a black diesel locomotive with a red bumper, looks back at him with a smug expression. In the background, a green signal post with a face and the word 'CRANKY' on top stands next to a green building. The scene is set on railway tracks under a blue sky with clouds.

Diesel refused to help. "Why would I want some snow-blowing steam engine bossing me around?" he told Thomas.

"That's fine," Thomas replied. "After all, everyone knows steam engines are better in bad weather."





**"Diesels can do anything Steamies  
can do!" Diesel responded proudly.  
"I'll prove it to you. Let's go!"**

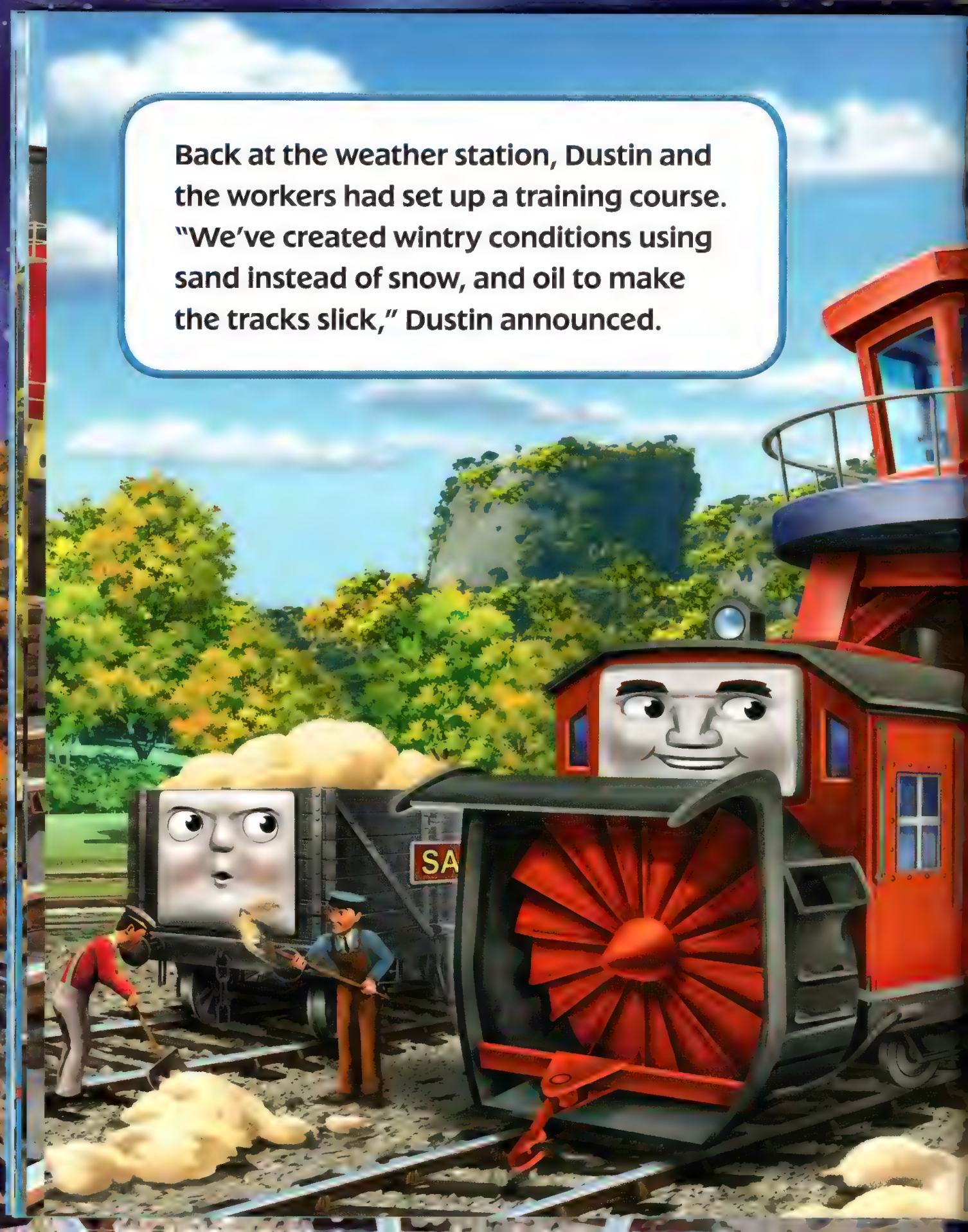




As the engines made their way back to the weather station, they found Dustin and Belle at Gordon's Hill. "It's time to start the training!" Dustin said excitedly. "In a storm, engines should be able to shunt trucks up steep hills with snow blowing in their eyes. For now, we can practice with sand."

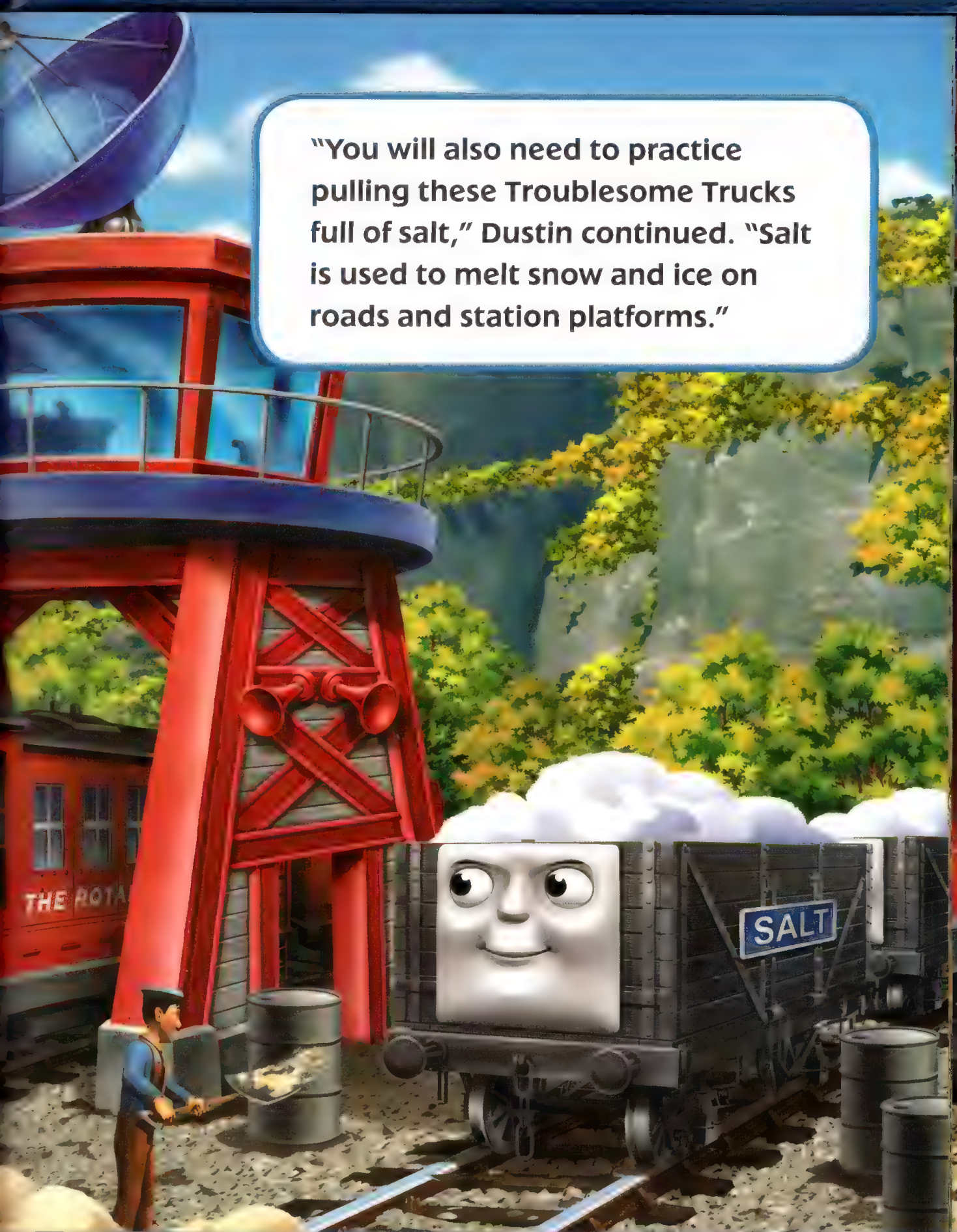


Back at the weather station, Dustin and the workers had set up a training course. "We've created wintry conditions using sand instead of snow, and oil to make the tracks slick," Dustin announced.



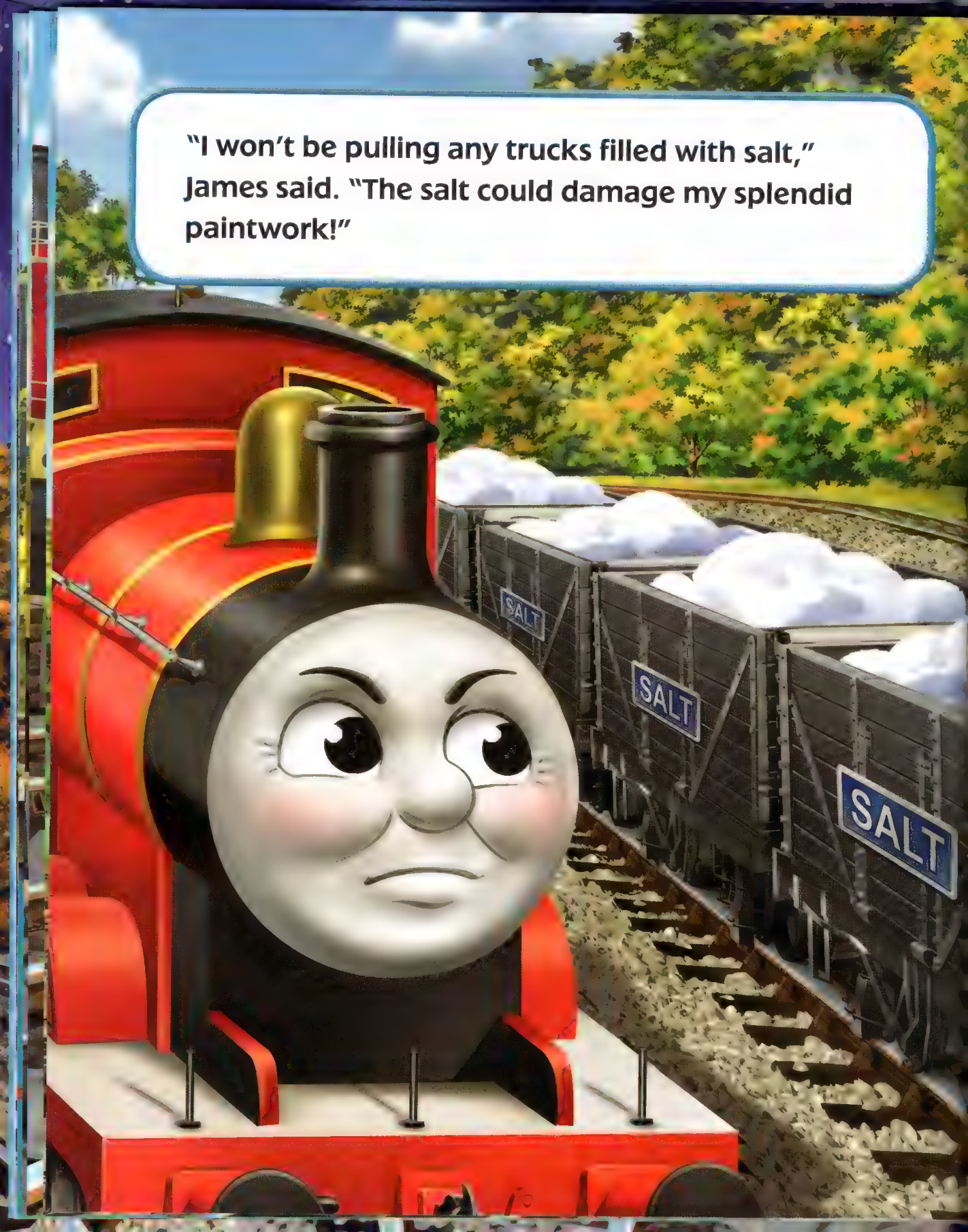


**"You will also need to practice pulling these Troublesome Trucks full of salt," Dustin continued. "Salt is used to melt snow and ice on roads and station platforms."**



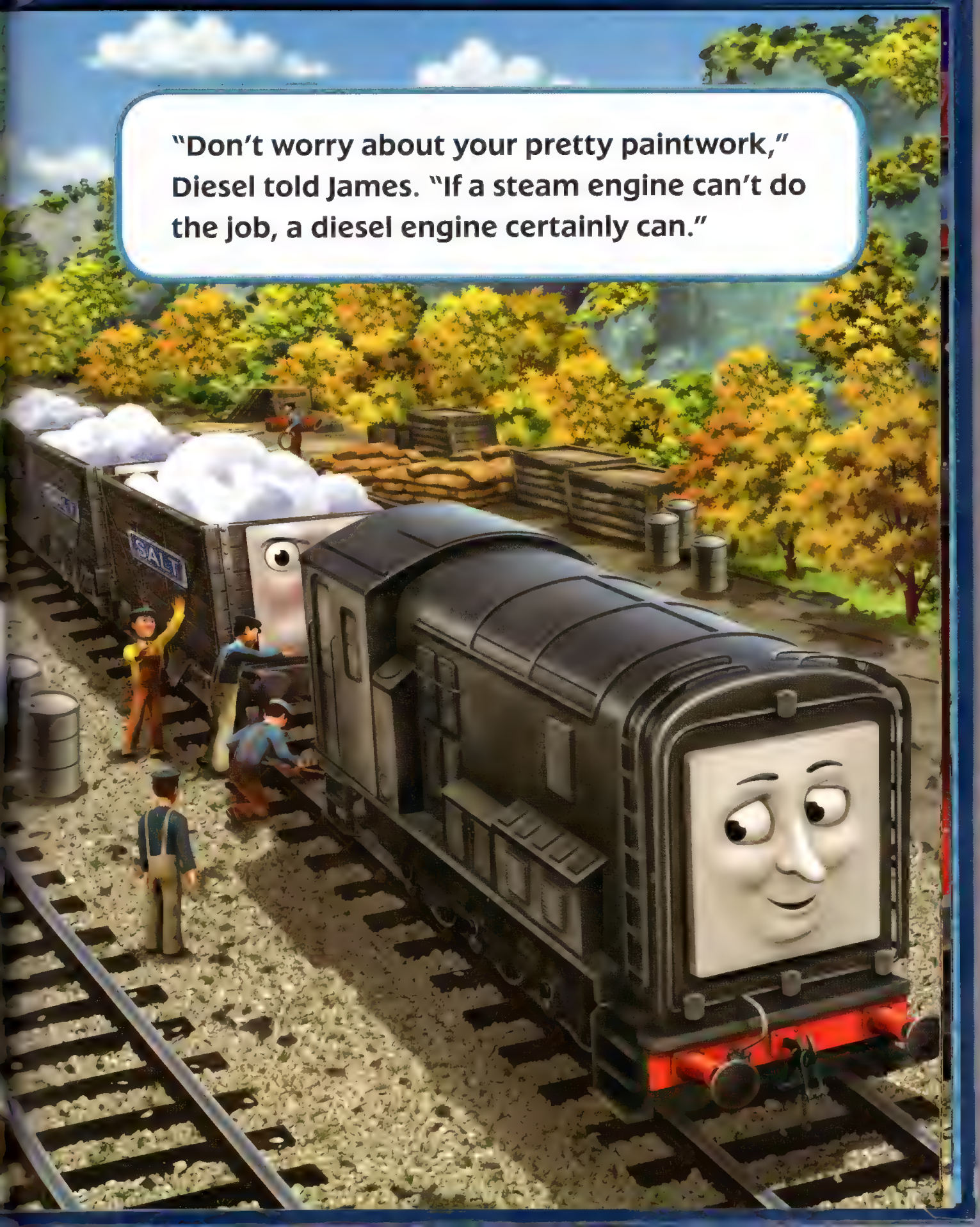


**"I won't be pulling any trucks filled with salt,"  
James said. "The salt could damage my splendid  
paintwork!"**

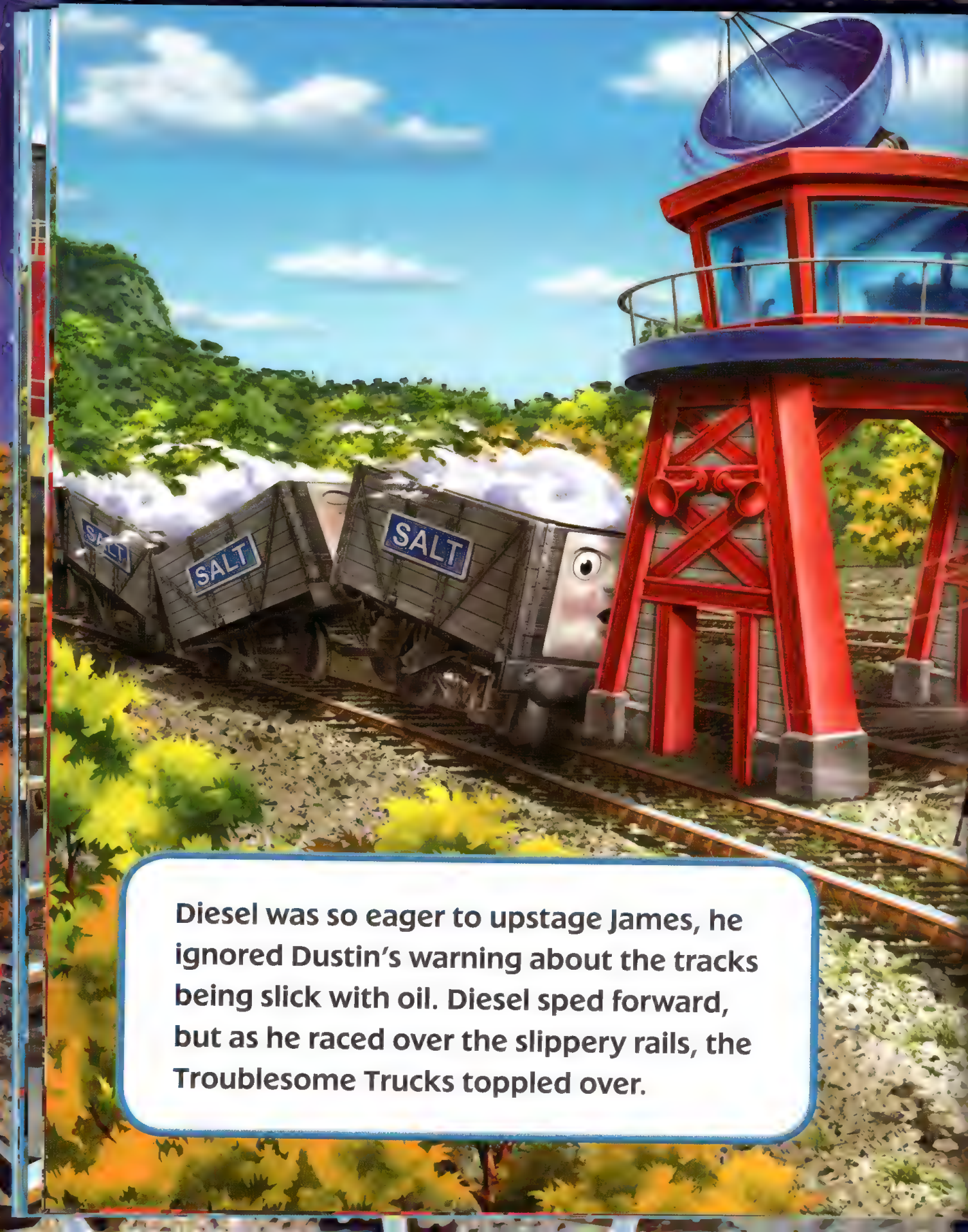




**"Don't worry about your pretty paintwork," Diesel told James. "If a steam engine can't do the job, a diesel engine certainly can."**







Diesel was so eager to upstage James, he ignored Dustin's warning about the tracks being slick with oil. Diesel sped forward, but as he raced over the slippery rails, the Troublesome Trucks toppled over.

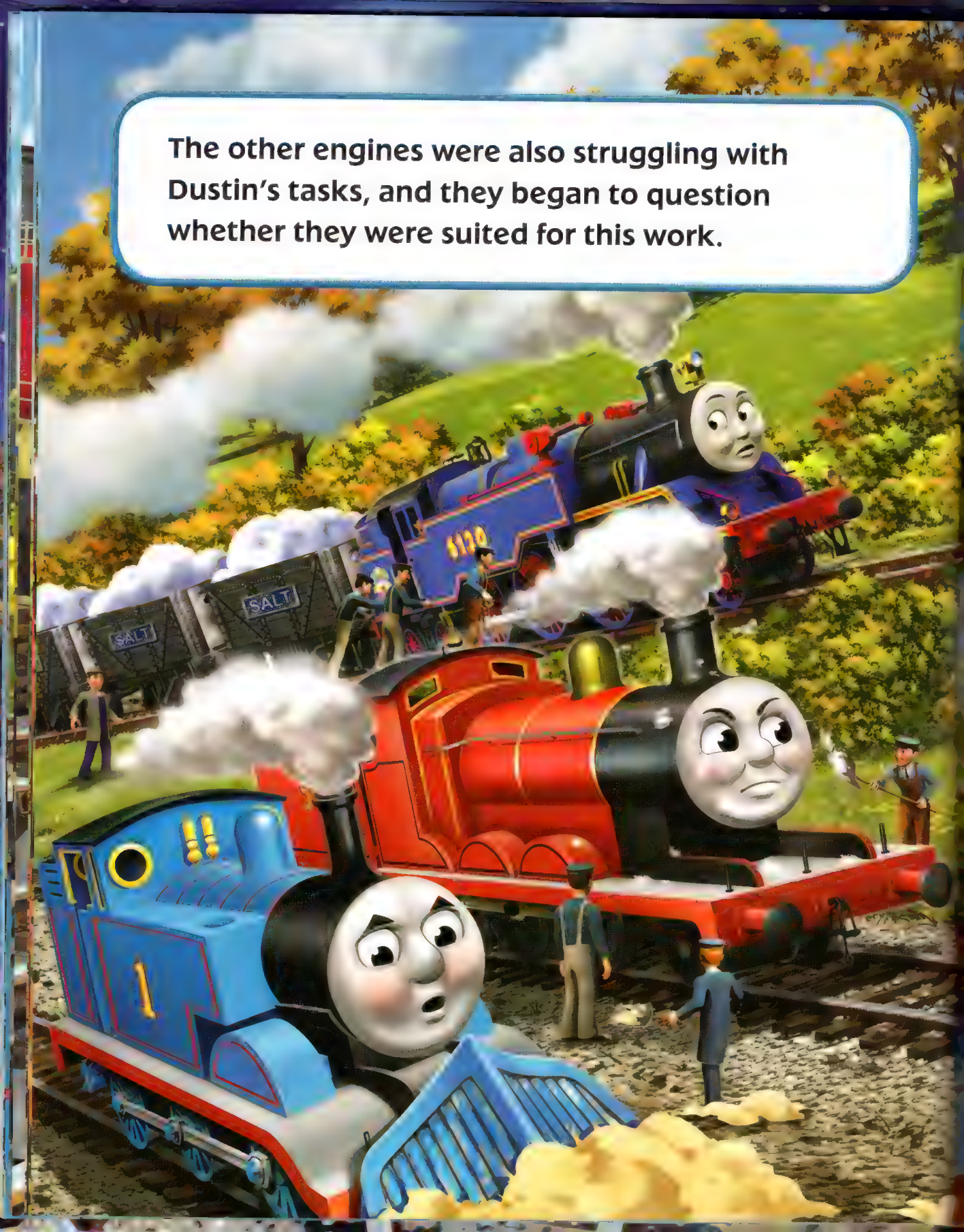


The trucks crashed into the base of the weather station, and the engines didn't realize that the impact had caused the satellite dish to rotate out of position.





The other engines were also struggling with Dustin's tasks, and they began to question whether they were suited for this work.

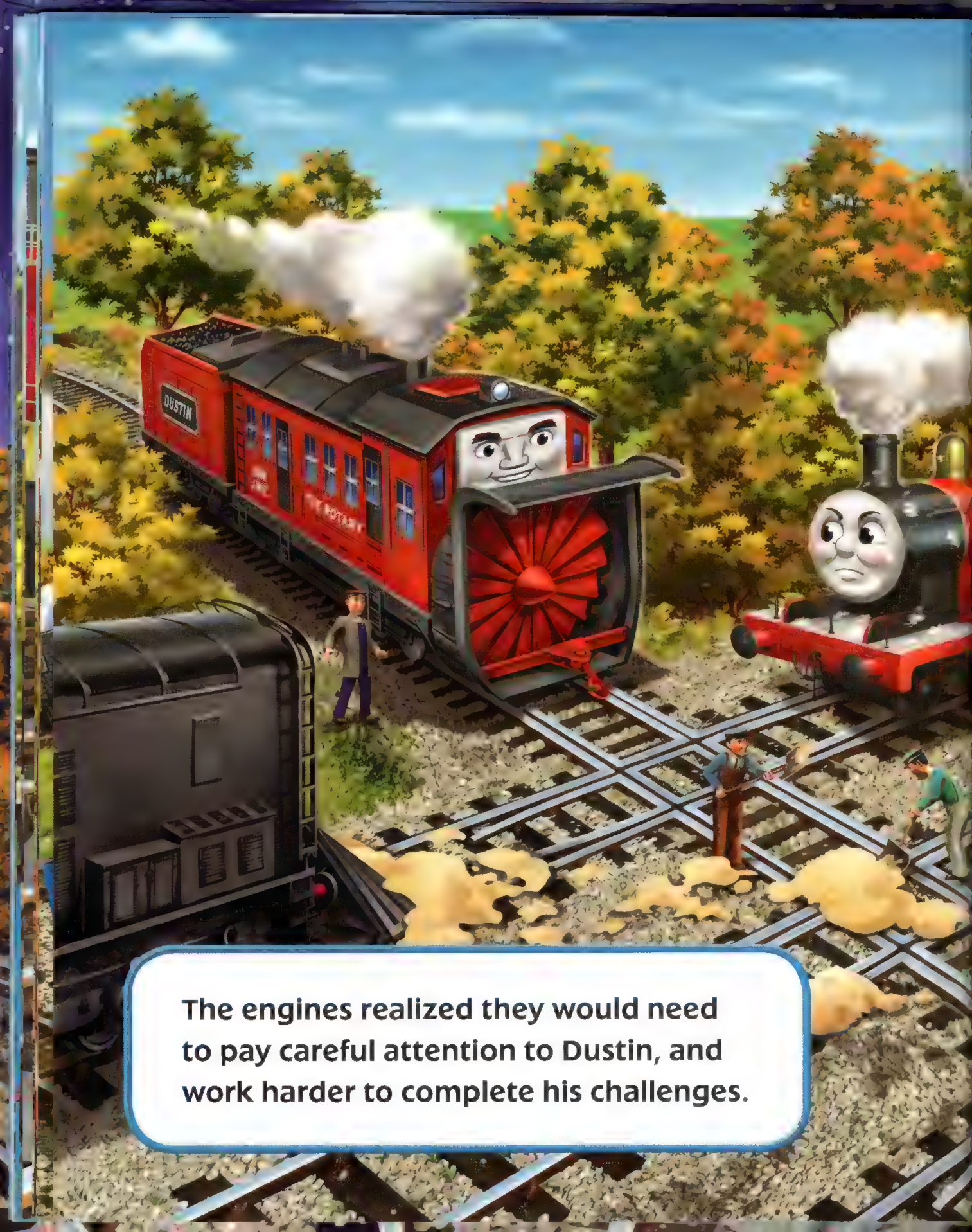




Dustin offered some words of encouragement: "Sir Topham Hatt put me in charge because I have plenty of experience with bad weather. Learning something new can be difficult, but if you work hard and follow my directions, you'll be Really Useful when a storm arrives."

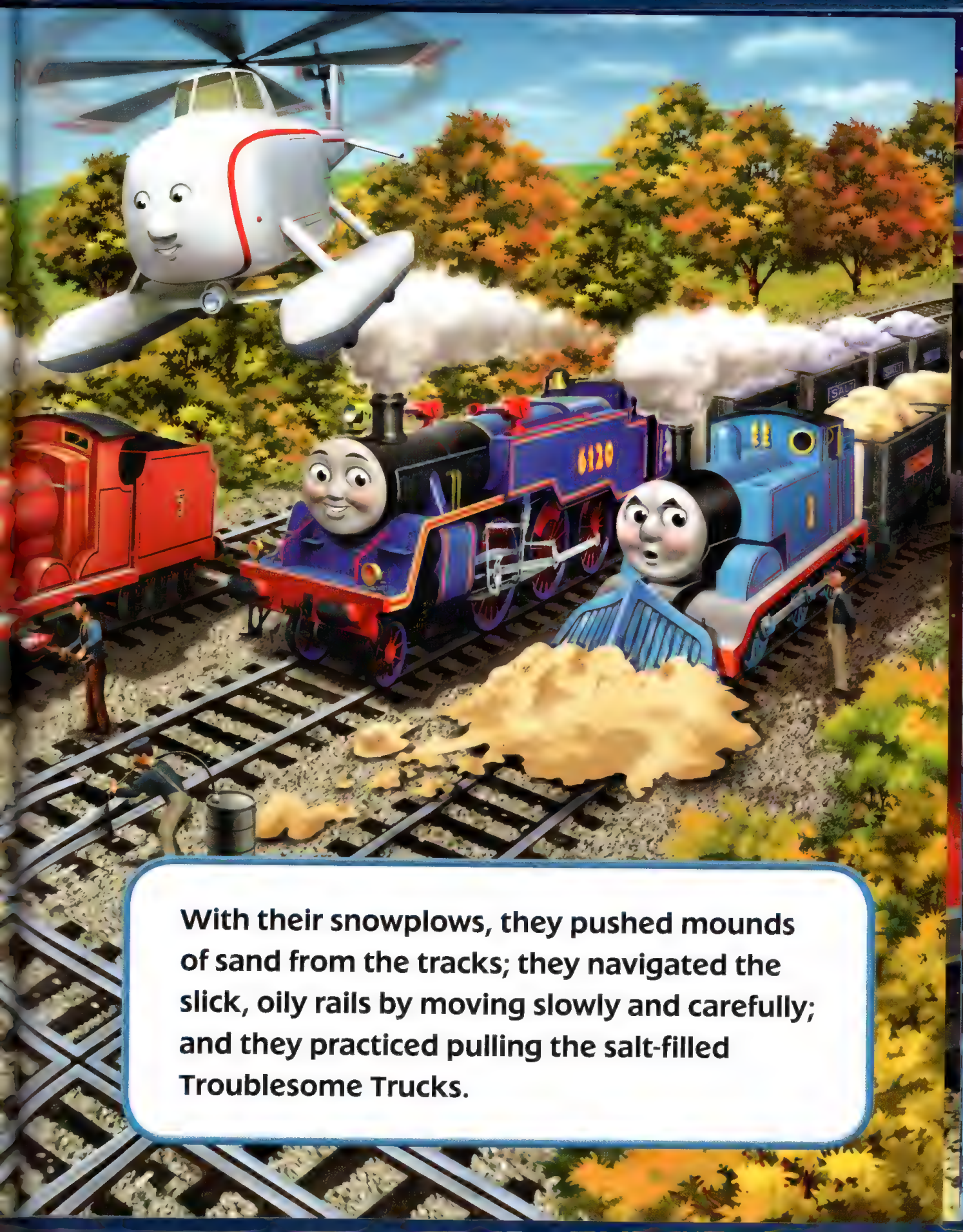






The engines realized they would need to pay careful attention to Dustin, and work harder to complete his challenges.





With their snowplows, they pushed mounds of sand from the tracks; they navigated the slick, oily rails by moving slowly and carefully; and they practiced pulling the salt-filled Troublesome Trucks.



When Dustin left the weather station, he felt proud of his team. Although they still needed practice, they were clearly improving.

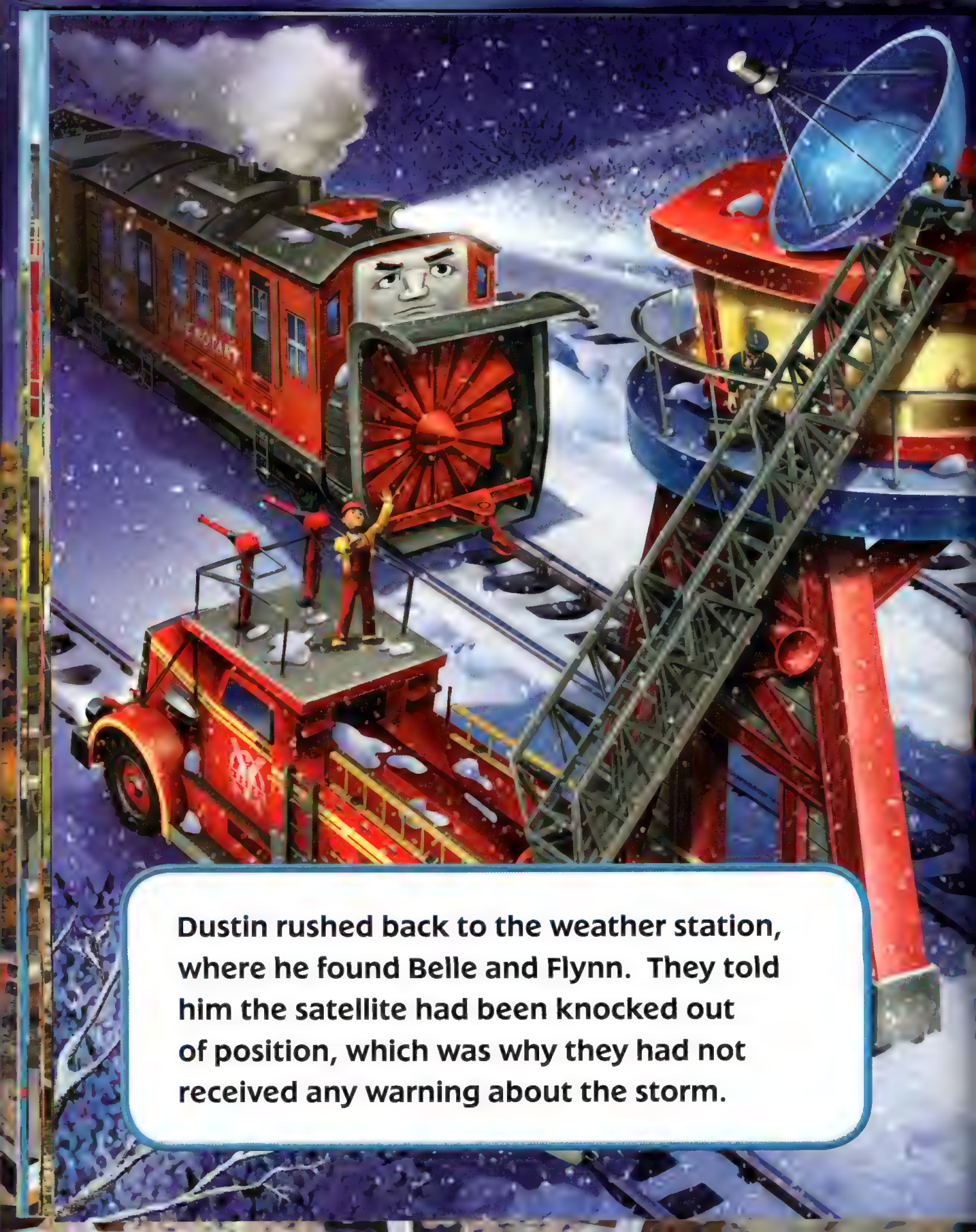




But as Dustin sat in his shed that evening, he watched a single snowflake tumble down from the sky, followed by another, and another. Soon, it began snowing heavily. "This can't be," Dustin said. "The satellite hasn't warned us about any snow."

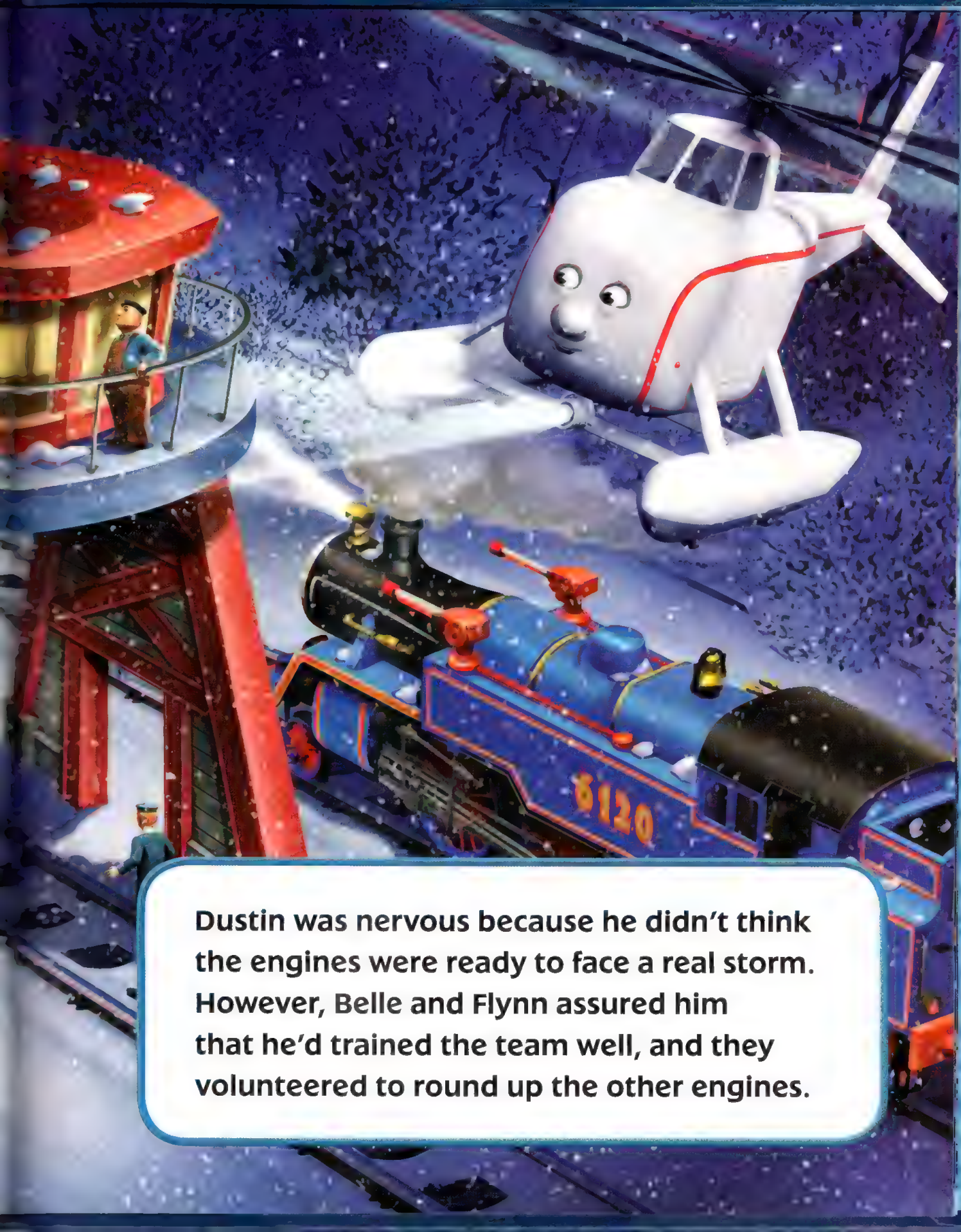






Dustin rushed back to the weather station, where he found Belle and Flynn. They told him the satellite had been knocked out of position, which was why they had not received any warning about the storm.





Dustin was nervous because he didn't think the engines were ready to face a real storm. However, Belle and Flynn assured him that he'd trained the team well, and they volunteered to round up the other engines.

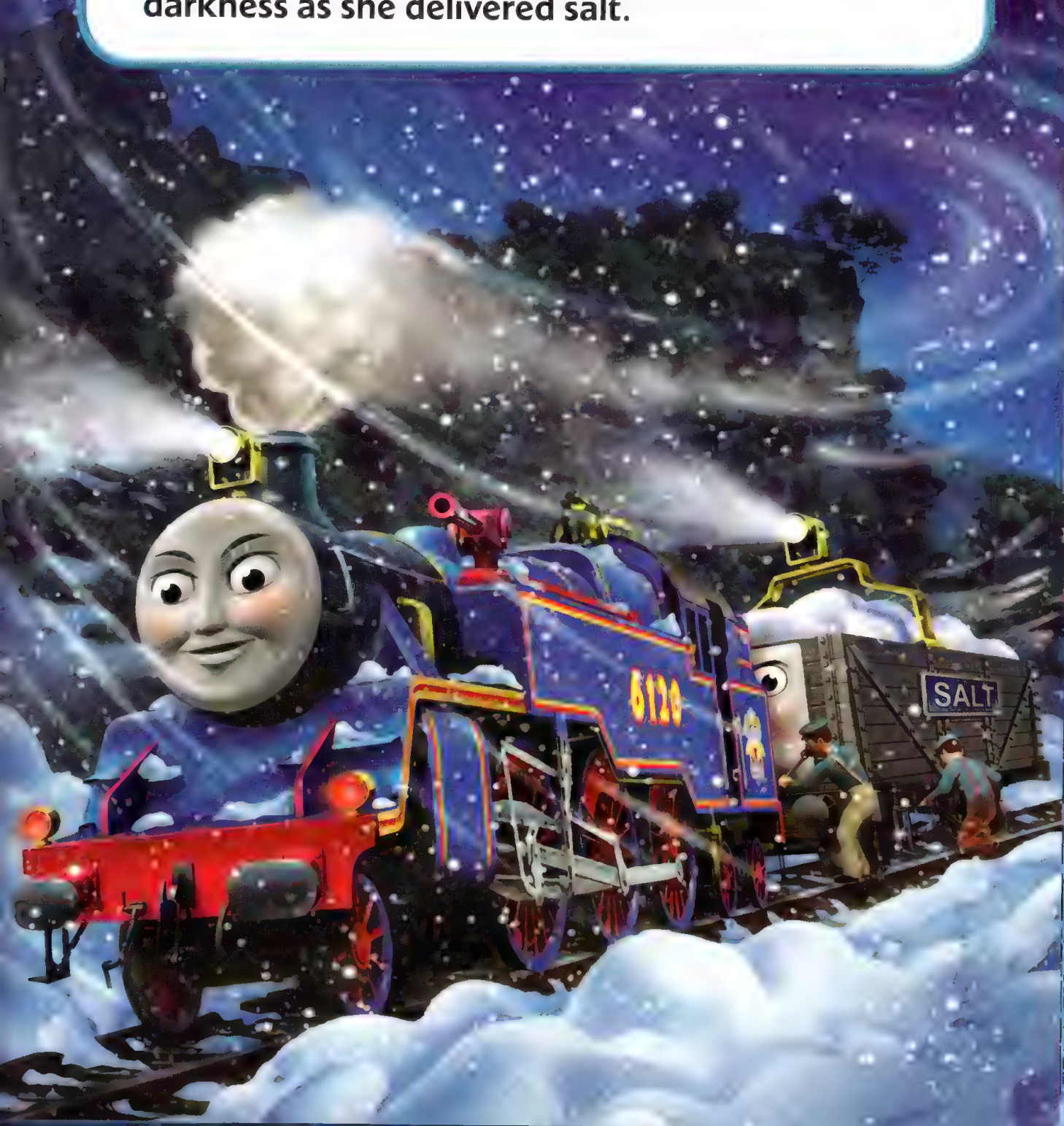




Harold lit the way as Flynn used his siren and Belle used her bell to alert the engines. After the team was assembled, Thomas, Diesel, and James were fitted with snowplows, so they could help clear the tracks.



Belle collected a Troublesome Truck fitted with a spotlight, so she could see through the snowy darkness as she delivered salt.





Thanks to Dustin's training, the engines carefully made their way along the slick, icy rails. They plowed snow from the tracks, delivered salt, and provided help to anyone who needed it.





Despite the storm, the railway continued to run smoothly. Passengers were transported and deliveries were made on time, all because of the engines' hard work.





After the storm had passed, Sir Topham Hatt spoke to the engines: "Even though our warning system wasn't working, you engines did an excellent job of keeping the railway running!"





The engines told Sir Topham Hatt that Dustin had been the one who trained them. "I can't take all the credit," Dustin said. "You could have quit when you realized the job was difficult, but you worked hard and came together as a team!"





With the new satellite now fixed and a team of engines ready for action, Sir Topham Hatt's railway was ready to face whatever winter had in store.















In the early 1940s, a loving father crafted a small blue engine for his son, Christopher. The stories that this father, the Reverend W Awdry, made up to accompany the wonderful toy were first published in 1945. Reverend Awdry continued to create new adventures and characters until 1972, when he retired from writing.





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